Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 IO-14 OMB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /133 W $\,$

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O P 071620Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0779

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

CONFIDENTIAL LISBON 2346

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PO PINS PINT US

SUBJ: POSSIBLE USG COMMENT ON NEGOTIATIONS OVER

PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES

REF: LUSAKA 1129 (NOTAL)

1. WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY LUSAKA THAT ALL THOSE WHO HAVE WORKED TO BRING SETTLEMENT CLOSER IN PORTUGUESE AFRICA DESERVE CREDIT. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE PORTUGUESE HAVE THE JUNE 12 OAU SUMMIT VERY MUCH IN CONFIDENTIAL

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MIND AND ARE HOPEFUL THAT A MODERATE POSITION ON PORTUGUESE

AFRICA WILL RESULT THEREFROM. WE WONDER IF THAT AIM, WHICH WE ASSUME USG OF COURSE SHARES, WOULD BE SERVED BY PUBLIC RECOGNITION BY USG OF ROLE OF ONE AFRICAN LEADER (KAUNDA) OR A FEW (KAUNDA, NYERERE, SENGHOR). WE ARE RATHER INCLINED TO THINK THAT THIS WOULD PUT UP THE BACKS OF THOSE NOT "MENTIONED IN DISPATCHES", COULD SUBJECT US-PRAISED LEADER(S) TO CHARGES OF BEING TOOL(S) OF US/PORTUGUESE NEO-COLONIALIST DESIGNS, AND COULD THEREFORE STRENGTHEN THE FORCES OF IMMODERATION. AT SAME TIME WE WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE NO OBJECTION TO PRIVATE MESSAGE CONVEYED TO KAUNDA, SENGHOR, ET AL, IF DEEMED USEFUL.

2. FOR PURELY DOMESTIC PORTUGUESE REASONS, WE SEE CONSIDERABLE VALUE TO A USG PUBLIC STATEMENT INDICATING OUR PLEASURE WITH THE NEW DIRECTIONS PORTUGAL HAS TAKEN DOMESTICALLY AND IN AFRICA. THERE ARE ELEMENTS INSIDE PORTUGAL WHO, HAVING SEEN THAT US WAS VIRTUALLY ONLY FRIEND THE OLD PORTUGAL HAD LEFT, ARE IN SOME DOUBT ABOUT WHETHER THE US WELCOMES THE APRIL 25 CHANGE OR REGRETS THE PASSAGE OF THE CAETANO REGIME. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO THE US POSITION IN PORTUGAL, AND INDEED, TO THE NEW PORTUGUESE REGIME. IF THE USG WERE PUBLICLY TO PUT THE STAMP OF APPROVAL ON THE SPINOLA GOVERNMENT (AS EMBASSY HAS PRIVATELY ON INSTRUCTIONS -- REF STATE 106145 NOTAL). WE WOULD THEREFORE BE VERY MUCH IN FAVOR OF A PUBLIC STATEMENT, POSSIBLY IN STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING, TO THE EFFECT THAT THE US HAS BEEN MOST GRATIFIED BY THE FACT THAT SINCE APRIL 25 PORTUGAL HAS EMBARKED ON THE ROAD TO GENUINE DEOMCRACY AT HOME AND SELF-DETERMINATION FOR PORTUGAL'S AFRICAN POSSESSIONS AND WE HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED TO SEE THAT PORTUGAL'S EFFORTS ARE MAKING PROGRESS BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND IN AFRICA, WHERE THEY HAVE MET WITH HELPFUL AND COOPERATIVE RESPONSES FROM BOTH LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES. SCOTT

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